

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 30, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that the substitute specification filed on July 7, 2003 has not been entered because it does not conform to 37 CFR 1.125(b) and (c), and specifically because a statement as to a lack of new matter under 37 CFR 1.125(b) was missing.

The failure to make the required statement was inadvertent. The applicants hereby state that the substitute specification submitted on July 7, 2003 does not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw her objection to the substitute specification and enter it into the record forthwith.

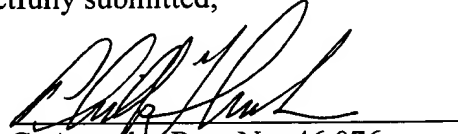
The applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 12 and 15-22 are allowed, and that claims 6, 7 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 6 and 11 are amended herein by rewriting them in independent form, including all of the limitations of their base claim, claim 1. Since claim 7 depends from claim 6, the amendment places claims 6, 7 and 11 in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated the Audit et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,370,711A. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Audit et al. It is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation herein of claims 1-5, 8 and 10.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Entry of this amendment after final action is appropriate under 37 CFR 1.116 because it is made to cancel claims and otherwise to comply with requirements of form expressly set forth in the Office Action.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



December 24, 2003

Date

Phillip G. Avruch - Reg. No. 46,076

RABIN & BERDO, P.C.

Telephone: 202-371-8976

Telefax: 202-408-0924

CUSTOMER NO. 23995

PGA/rw